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Title : Drought situation in North Eastern Region particularly in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the drought situation in Assam. For the first time in the history of Assam, Assam is facing a drought situation, probably due to the effect of global warming. The climate change has shifted floods from Assam to Gujarat and Maharashtra which were normally facing drought. This time, more than 3.5 lakh farmers' families are suffering and there is drastic reduction in the normal rainfall; it is about 60 per cent reduction than the average normal rainfall. The major crop of Assam is rice and the entire rice production will be affected this time. If timely action is not taken by the Government, there will be starvation deaths in Assam.

So far, the Government of India has not released any fund under NCCF or CRF to help farmers. Irrigation facilities in Assam are not properly developed in Assam because Assam was normally getting good rainfall in the past.

So, I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to immediately send an expert team to Assam to assess the situation and to grant adequate relief to Assam Government so that farmers are given relief. It is estimated that an amount of more than Rs.100 crore is required immediately to tackle the present situation.

I hope that the Government of India will take the matter very seriously and help the State of Assam at this hour of crisis.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Sir, I associated myself with what Dr. Arum Kumar Sarma has said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.